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Spying

America's Spy Network Is The Fastest- Growing Part Of The U.S. Budget

By David E. Kaplan

HOW BIG IS America's espionage industry? At the federal level at least 12 major government agencies employ an estimated 150,000 people in intelligence operations. The projects range from those of the super-secret National Reconnaissance Office — which controls U.S. spy satellites — to the FBI's surveillance of foreign spy agents in the United States.

Budget figures for the major federal intelligence agencies are normally buried deep within the classified portions of the U.S. defense budget. In an apparent slip-up, however, a 1983 Pentagon budget document was released with figures that indicate the size of this year's federal intelligence budget. The Reagan administration's request for intelligence this year stands at about \$14.2 billion, an increase of more than 20 percent over last year's request, according to the report. If fully funded, this would make America's national spy agencies the fastest growing part of the U.S. budget — faster even than the Defense Department.

The private espionage business also seems to be booming, particularly in the area of industrial spying. "Since Watergate we've seen a major increase in our business," says Alice Fribourg of CCS Inc., a leading manufacturer of electronic counter-espionage equipment. "The technology now is such that it's a lot easier for people to bug and wiretap."

In 1949 British novelist George Orwell predicted in his book "1984" that today's citizens would live in a world of continuous surveillance and manipulation by Big Brother. Orwell's prophecy has not yet come true, but our nation today does play host to a formidable complex of spies and spying. Indeed, with our public and private "spook" industries both thriving, it seems appropriate to take stock of who's who in American espionage.

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